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REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 12th October 1901.

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FOREIGN POLITICS.

2489. In view of Russia's invidious designs in Asia, of Germany's India and the Boer war. warlike preparations and determined hostility to

INDIAN MIRROR,
1st Oct. 1901.

England, of the recent alliance of France with Russia with whom, or with any other Power, directly opposed to England, she is capable of a great deal of mischief, the *Indian Mirror* "would beg of England to bring the Boer war to an end at any cost." She has suffered much already in other quarters owing to that unfortunate war, and there is no knowing where Russian aggressiveness will end unless Great Britain takes up a firm attitude in regard to her vast Asiatic possessions. In this connection the *Mirror* bemoans the impending retirement of Lord Salisbury, which will be a source of fresh anxiety to India.

2490. Continuing its notice of what the American papers have remarked

The Russo-Afghan problem and the defence of the Empire. regarding the state of affairs in Afghanistan, the *Indian Mirror* says that there is a strong impression

INDIAN MIRROR,
3rd Oct. 1901.

in America that Russia is bent on mischief in Afghanistan, and that she is only waiting for the demise of the present Amir to pursue her designs. Meanwhile, the *Mirror* points out that it is the duty of the Government to firmly secure the frontier against the invidious attempts of any foreign Power, and of the people of India to strengthen the hands of Government by cordial support of any measures it might deem fit to adopt in the defence of the Empire. It points out the blessings of British rule and hopes the day will not come when Britain's Eastern sovereignty will be contested by any Power, but should such an event ever occur it advises both the Princes and the people of India to do everything, and to give everything for the maintenance of British rule, and to make it clear to Russia that all the troops she may muster will not outweigh the loyal devotion of the Indian people to the British throne.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2491. The *Bengalee* understands that the District Magistrate will hold an

The Baranagore suspected murderer case. enquiry into the circumstances that led to the death of Kiran Shoshi Dassi. From the finding of the Sealdah Magistrate, it is clear that the

BENGALEE,
4th Oct. 1901.

woman was maltreated prior to her death, and local opinion ascribes her death to violence and holds that, but for the culpable negligence and the inexplicable bungling of the local police, the mystery shrouding her death would have been cleared up long ago. The journal hopes that the case will be entrusted to capable hands, and that the Public Prosecutor will conduct the enquiry.

2492. Referring to the question of a Police Conference being convened in Calcutta during the approaching cold-weather,

Police reform. the *Bengalee* remarks that while each province

BENGALEE,
4th Oct. 1901.

should be left to work out a solution of the problem according to its own requirements, the broad outlines might be advantageously laid down by the Supreme Government, so that there might be some uniformity wherever attainable. It would be glad to see the question of reform threshed out at an Inter-Provincial Conference, attended by non-official representatives, and suggests that His Excellency the Viceroy should take up the matter, as it is recognised on all hands that when Lord Curzon does take up a question he does not leave it unsolved or solved in a hurried, haphazard manner.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

2493. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that Mr. Forrester, the Joint-Magistrate of Mymensingh, finds himself very

Mr. Forrester, Joint-Magistrate of Mymensingh. popular at the present moment, owing to his decision in a case in which a European charged a native with criminal intimidation, and in which he discharged the accused.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th Sept. 1901.

Thanks to the extraordinary judicial conduct of some European officials, matters, it says, have come to such a pass that, if a European official now does

simple justice in a case between a European and an Indian, he is given credit for it!

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th Sept. 1901.

2494. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* ascribes the strained relations existing between Mr. Vincent, Sessions Judge of Monghyr, Mr. Vincent, Sessions Judge, and the mukhtears practising in his Court, to the fact that the latter caused it to be brought to the Lieutenant-Governor's notice that the High Court's order reducing the sentence passed on Nawab Khan was not communicated to the jailer by Mr. Vincent, with the result that the prisoner was illegally detained for two months and ten days in excess of his sentence. It also mentions that the Sessions Judge made a private settlement with the prisoner by giving him Rs. 150 which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor accepted, noting, however, with grave dissatisfaction, the blunder committed.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
1st Oct. 1901.

2495. The intelligence that Babu Jogesh Chandra Mitter has been posted to Dacca to clear the file of the District and Sessions Judge there, will, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, afford great relief to the people of Dacca.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
1st Oct. 1901.

2496. The same paper publishes the full text of the judgment of the Sessions Judge of Dinajpur, in the case of Babu Musahar Singh, in which Mr. Lane's action was condemned by the Judge, and asks whether it is safe to allow Mr. Lane to try the cases now pending against the Babu.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd Oct. 1901.

2497. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reverts to this case, and quotes again, from the affidavit filed before the High Court, and which has already been noticed in this report, the treatment accorded to Musahar Singh, with Mr. Lane's cognisance, and appeals to the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, who has stayed all further proceedings in the other cases against the Babu, to exercise his powers under section 528 of the Code, and transfer the cases to the file of some other Magistrate.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th Oct. 1901.

2498. Commenting on the possibility that it may be urged that Mr. Lane acted within his rights in the case of Musahar Singh, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that the mischief is that the law permits Magistrates, almost despotic powers, but that the Government can stop such prosecutions as have the appearance of persecutions—nay, they ought to do it.

BENGALEE,
2nd Oct. 1901.

Increase in the criminal work of the High Court.

2499. Resuming its observations on this subject, the *Bengalee* finds a further reason to account for the increase of criminal work in the High Court in the want of confidence in the present race of Sessions Judges, who are oftener than not junior in service to District Magistrates, to whom they are unconsciously led to pay a certain deference. Like the Magistrates of whom it wrote in its first article, Sessions Judges are prone to convict, and the one who convicts the most has the best chance of being raised to the Bench of the High Court or of having the healthiest and best districts. In a word, it is the want of confidence in the entire mufassal tribunals in which the *Bengalee* finds the real cause of the increase of work lies; it is the administration, not the Criminal Procedure Code, which is really responsible.

To restore the confidence which the people are daily losing in the independence of Judges, can, says the writer, be accomplished by separating the Judicial from the Executive.

"There may at first be a little friction between the Judicial and the Executive, if the separation, for which the people have been praying and which the wisest and most thoughtful of the servants of Government have unhesitatingly advocated, was made an accomplished fact. But the gain to the country, and eventually the gain to the Government itself, will be enormous. It is only a narrow policy which looks at the expense which such a measure will entail. It is only a selfish policy, which cannot fail to bring in its train its own Nemesis, which is reluctant to decentralize power when such decentralization is bound to result in such incalculable good both to the people and the Government."

2500. The following paragraph is extracted *verbatim* from the Monghyr correspondent's letter to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—
A whipping Magistrate.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th Oct. 1901.

"Since you have been wielding your powerful pen against the inhuman practice of indiscriminate whipping by the Subordinate Magistrates I cannot help concluding this correspondence without referring to an officer recently deputed to this station, whose inordinate and abnormal love for the lash has beaten his brother officials hollow, and sent them nonplussed to the corner. This gentleman has come here very recently, and not a week passes but two or three people are bound hand and foot and lashed like brutes. The sight is sickening. He has whipped more people during his short stay at Monghyr than his brother officials have done in all their life. We shall be obliged to disclose more about this gentleman if he does not follow the example of other Magistrates attached to this station."

(d)—*Education.*

2501. The *Moslem Chronicle* expresses approval of the Viceroy's intention of bringing hostels, boarding-houses, and "messes" under proper supervision. Such a step is urgently needed, and the writer awaits the hour when these 'abodes of dissolution,' as he calls messes, will be radically reformed. He also presses upon the consideration of the Government the question of establishing an adequate number of boarding-houses for Muhammadan students in the mufassal, and hopes that a more liberal policy as to grants-in-aid to them may be adopted.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
28th Sept. 1901.

The appointment of Mr. Hari Nath De to the Imperial Service of the Education Department. Press against the order of the Government that no appointment was to be made in India to the Imperial Service of the Education Department has at last borne fruit, and that the Secretary of State has just appointed a Bengalee, Mr. Hari Nath De, M.A., to that branch of the service.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
29th Sept. 1901.

2503. The *Indian Mirror* bewails the absence of any institution in Calcutta for continuing the education of Hindu girls after their marriage. If only a class of Hindu zanana lady-teachers could be trained up to do the work that is at present done by the ladies of the Christian Zanana Mission, they could carry the light of knowledge into the very bosom of Hindu households to illumine the dark ignorance that lingers within the four walls of the zanana. The writer compares the facilities afforded in this direction in the other presidencies, and points out that in Calcutta Brahmo girls alone now enjoy the benefits of such education after their marriage.

INDIAN MIRROR,
4th Oct. 1901.

2504. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* states that its office was besieged the other day by a large number of students of the Bengal Veterinary College, who produced a written statement of their complaints signed by all the students of the College, in which they make grave allegations against the Principal. Ignorant of the other side of the question, the *Patrika* abstains from publishing the complaints or commenting on them, but appeals to Major Raymond to make it up with the students, and advises the students in turn to be submissive to their Principal.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th Oct. 1901.

2505. Referring to the disclosures made by the *Indian Medical Gazette*, with reference to the sale of cocaine, the *Indian Mirror* is thankful that the Government of Bengal has risen to the occasion, as the protector of public morals, and is seriously thinking of taking some effective action in order to suppress the vice. It hopes that the Local Government will put itself in communication with Mr. Pedler in order to concert measures for putting a stop to cocaine-eating and cigarette-smoking among Indian boys, and also to bring into operation amongst them the scheme of moral education which is now being devised.

INDIAN MIRROR,
6th Oct. 1901.

Cocaine-eating and cigarette-smoking by Indian students.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BENGALEE,
4th Oct. 1901.

2506. The *Bengalee* gives the names of the contractors who have tendered for the construction of the new Calcutta Municipal Office, with the amounts of their tenders. Among them is an Indian firm, Messrs. Sarat Kumar Ray and Company, whose tender is the lowest, and the difference between which and the next highest, that of Messrs. Burn and Company, is Rs. 41,000—not an inconsiderable saving of rate-payers' money in these hard times. Lord Curzon's policy being to stimulate the growth of Indian enterprise, the writer in the *Bengalee* hopes that policy will find favour with the City Fathers, and that the question of colour will not be a bar to the acceptance of the lowest tender. It then insinuates that some of Messrs. Burn and Company's transactions with the Municipality were not creditable, although an impression prevails that for all big municipal works there is no room for anyone except either Messrs. Burn and Martin and Company. It awaits Mr. Silk's decision in the matter with eagerness.

BENGALEE,
5th Oct. 1901.

2507. The *Bengalee* is glad to see that Mr. Silk, the Officiating Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, has introduced a spirit of discipline to control and remedy the perverse dilatoriness and indifference of municipal subordinates. He has already issued strict orders for the careful disposal of cases and the systematisation of work, and, what is of the first importance, he daily watches how his orders are being carried out. Discipline of this kind has been sadly needed in the Corporation, and the writer is glad to find that Mr. Silk is using his energies to the best advantage.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
29th Sept. 1901.

2508. *Power and Guardian* presses on the attention both of the Home Board of the East Indian Railway Company and the Government of India the desirability of getting rid of low-class European and Eurasian railway employés, whose outrages on defenceless girls and ill-treatment of Indians generally constitute a blot on railway administration in India.

BENGALEE,
6th Oct. 1901.

2509. The *Bengalee* publishes the memorial of the Indian Association to Lord Curzon on the subject of the grievances from which Indian railway passengers of the third-class suffer, which are described as follows:—

- (1) Discourteous and sometimes insolent treatment of third-class passengers by railway underlings.
- (2) Overcrowding in third-class compartments.
- (3) The absence of latrine accommodation for third-class passengers of the male sex and for passengers of the intermediate class of both sexes, male and female.
- (4) The absence of refreshment-rooms for Indian passengers at the railway stations and the imposition of heavy license fees on the vendors of Indian sweetmeats at the railway platforms, which must eventually be paid by the consumers, while European refreshment-rooms have all sorts of facilities afforded them, such as free accommodation, free passes for servants, and free carriage for provisions.

To obviate the first, it suggests placing a detective at great stations to note the conduct of railway underlings, and it remarks that if exemplary punishments were inflicted in a few cases, the evil would soon terminate.

As for the complaint of overcrowding, there is not the smallest excuse for it, and such a state of things would nowhere be tolerated except in India. *Melas*, on which occasions such overcrowding takes place, recur with the periodicity of the seasons, and the railway administration should be prepared for them.

The writer intends to revert in a future issue, to the other points in the Association's letter.

(h)—General.

2510. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* continues to rake up old cases in which Mr. Pennell and Mr. Cotton. officials were convicted and retained in service, in contrast to the treatment accorded to Mr. Pennell. It now gives the details of the case in which a Mr. Webb of Assam was fined Rs. 100 for committing rape on a woman who died soon after the assault, and cites the Government of India's Resolution on the case, from which it quotes the following passage:—

“There is no province in India in which a strict and impartial administration of justice between Europeans and Natives is of more vital importance than it is in Assam, and there is no place where cases arising out of assaults or alleged assaults by Europeans on Natives are more likely to occur, or where it is more important that such cases should be thoroughly investigated.”

“And it is in this Province of Assam,” it proceeds to say, “that contracts, which ignorant coolies enter into with European planters, are penal, and it is here, we are told, that an official like Mr. Cotton is a nuisance.”

2511. The letter of the Secretary of State dismissing Mr. Pennell has been published by the *Indian Mirror*, who says:—

“He has had his faults, no doubt, but is he alone to blame? We have not yet, for instance, heard what the Chief Justice has to say in justification of the unwarrantable telegram he addressed to Mr. Pennell.”

2512. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes the letter of ‘an esteemed friend’ in London, forwarding a copy of the orders of the Secretary of State for India, dated the 5th September 1901, communicated to Mr. Pennell, in reply to the latter's memorial of the 29th April last, praying for reinstatement and compensation. Under Lord George Hamilton's order, Mr. Pennell's name has been removed from the roll of the Indian Civil Service with effect from the 15th May last, on which date Mr. Pennell left India without leave.

The correspondent does not think any one will be surprised at the penalty, and Mr. Pennell himself probably never expected any other result since he actually “rode for a fall.” But as he is not the man to “take his expulsion lying down,” it is safe to prophesy that he is sure to give his old foes trouble, and that Parliamentary action will be taken as soon as Parliament resumes its sitting. The writer wonders whether the sympathy which was extended to Mr. Pennell while his fight was on will be continued, should he carry out his intention of returning to India as a practising barrister.

2513. Noticing the Secretary of State's dismissal of Mr. Pennell, without any attempt being made to go into the merits of Mr. Pennell's dismissal. his case, the *Bengalee* writes:—

“We have always held—and the Indian public have, in one voice, held with us,—that a most wretched piece of gross injustice has been done to Mr. Pennell for Judicial independence and non-subserviency to the Executive. We hoped that, free from the atmosphere of prejudice and pre-possession, the India Office would rectify the wrong which an exasperated bureau was led to perpetrate. Dismissed or retained in the service, Mr. Pennell would, all the same, be regarded by the Indian public as a martyr to the cause of truth and justice, and his name, already a household word in Indian homes, will be cherished in loving and respected remembrance as the noble example of an independent English Judge, sought to be throttled by a wrathful Government.”

2514. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that “Lord George Hamilton avoided inconvenient controversy and took the safe ground of a breach of the rule to remove

Ibid. Mr. Pennell. Under the rule, Mr. Pennell had no right to leave the country without permission. He broke the rule and was removed. That is all right, but Mr. Pennell left the country when he had been already dismissed. He was dismissed by the Bengal and India Governments, and by that he was released from the clutches of the rule that bound him to India.”

2515. *Power and Guardian* relates that a prisoner in Chapra, after hearing the sentence passed on him by the Court, Assists by prisoners in Court. threw a stone at the Sub-Inspector of Police which struck that officer and wounded him. It comments on the frequency of such

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th Sept. 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,
1st Oct. 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
1st Oct. 1901.

BENGALEE,
2nd Oct. 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Oct. 1901.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
29th Sept. 1901.

assaults in the Saran district and thinks that the time has come when an effectual stop should be put to them.

INDIAN MIRROR,
1st Oct. 1901.

2516. The *Indian Mirror* mentions that at the last annual meeting of the British Indian Association of Calcutta, it was resolved that Lord Curzon, and, if necessary, the Secretary of State, should be approached for an extension of Lord Curzon's term of office, as long as he is willing to serve, in order that he might be on the spot to give his personal attention to the recommendations of the Irrigation Commission when the same are made, and see his scheme of a Victoria Memorial Hall through.

"Lord Curzon's own personal wishes in the matter have fully to be reckoned with, and it is open to doubt," says the *Mirror*, "whether Lord Curzon will consent to hold on to his present office longer than he can actually help."

BENGALEE,
2nd Oct. 1901.

2517. The *Bengalee* remarks that at the time the Bengal Budget estimates for the current year appeared, and it was seen that a larger provision had been made therein for the improvement of the Subordinate Civil than for the Judicial Service, it refrained from making any observations, but waited till the schemes assumed definite shape. As, however, nothing has as yet been heard of them, it is naturally getting anxious over the delay.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Oct. 1901.

2518. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has received several complaints from the students of the Bengal Veterinary Institution against their Principal, but while refusing to enter into the merits of the charges hopes the Government will see that the Institution, which has been established at no small cost, will not suffer to suit the whims of any particular party or body of men. It is suggested that a sifting enquiry be ordered into the cause of the difference between the Principal and the students, and the matter set right.

BENGALEE,
4th Oct. 1901.

2519. The *Bengalee*, in publishing the letter of the Government of India refusing to set aside the order expelling Bissu Mull from the Dinapore Cantonment, says that this decision has failed to give public satisfaction, inasmuch as the unfortunate man was not given an opportunity to clear his character, and the position of the authority who conducted the "independent enquiry" has not been made known. It takes this opportunity of inveighing against the regulations of the Cantonment Code, which are arbitrary in the extreme and ought to be rescinded or modified at the earliest opportunity. They place the Cantonment people at the mercy of the Cantonment authorities, and the procedure adopted in pursuance of them is unjust and irregular, and tinged in a large measure by the bias of the authority initiating them.

III.—LEGISLATION.

BEHAR HERALD,
2nd Oct. 1901.

2520. The *Behar Herald* hopes that the Hon'ble Chaturbhuj Sahai, the Bihar Member of the Bengal Legislative Council, The Hon'ble Chaturbhuj Sahai. will by judicious, conscientious, and persistent interpellations, prove a spokesman for the grievances of the people and subordinate officials of Bihar.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th Oct. 1901.

2521. Referring to the deportation of the Maharaja of Punna for the alleged crime of poisoning his uncle, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks:—

"What we beg to submit is that the Maharaja should be allowed a fair and impartial trial, and that his case be not disposed of in the usual way. A British subject, accused of murder, even when caught red-handed, is not condemned unheard. Why should, then, an Indian Prince be treated in a different manner? Why should he not be allowed the privilege of being tried by his own peers, as is done in the case of English Lords?"

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

2522. In view of the fact that the outturn of paddy this year is likely to be indifferent, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* suggests that the new Bengal Landholders' Association should take up the initiative and set about popularising the cultivation of potatoes, which can be grown anywhere, and which would be the means of producing a large quantity of wholesome food in view of a possible famine.

The Association is recommended to prepare notes in Bengali on the cultivation of this vegetable and distribute them broadcast, while zamindars are requested to give the project their support.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th Oct. 1901.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

2523. The *Moslem Chronicle*, in referring to the movement got up by some enlightened zamindars to erect a statue of the Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerji to perpetuate his great services to the community, does not think that such a form of memorial would be pleasing to the Hon'ble Gentleman, who has often condemned it as clear and extravagant waste of money.

2524. The *East* publishes, with appreciative comments, an extract from Lord George Hamilton's speech on the Indian Budget, and has no hesitation in owning the good feeling entertained by the Secretary of State towards the people of India, though he might at times and in the heat of the moment have expressed quite different feelings.

It concludes with an appeal to its countrymen not to identify themselves with any political party at home, and to remember that the relations that exist between the rulers and the ruled, is altogether different from the relations that exist between the two political parties at home.

2525. The *Behar Herald* takes a survey of the treatment accorded to Indians at home and in different parts of the British Empire, and in view of the unfriendly attitude accorded them, asks if this is not incongruous, "when the professed policy of England is to hold out the right hand of fellowship to the Indians," also if it is not very unjust, "when you have repeatedly declared that wherever a white citizen of the British Empire goes, the brown subject of the Empire is entitled to enter?" It feels that this is the time when it might fittingly uplift its voice in protest and demonstrate to the intelligent and just among our rulers that those great and sacred responsibilities which all parents are supposed to assume have in the case of Indians been neglected.

2526. In order to show how Irishmen write and criticise Government measures, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* "wishes it could quote fully from the *Irish Independent* its strictures upon the wonderful speech of Lord George Hamilton, declaring that, along with its unparalleled famine, India was growing in prosperity." "But the dangerousness of the attempt deters it from doing so in full," yet it quotes from Mr. Maclean part of whose speech is cited in the *Irish Independent*, that observers, who look below the surface of things in India and are not satisfied that the outward signs of loyalty are conclusive proofs that India is governed by the best possible administrations, are well aware that India was never more profoundly disaffected to British rule than she is at the present moment; that she was never governed with less regard for the wishes and interests of the subject races, and that it is only the hopelessness of resistance which prevents the outbreak of formidable insurrections.

It fully agrees with Mr. Maclean that "India was never more profoundly in despair than she is at the present time, and the reason is because there is no sign of improvement in the attitude of the rulers towards India. On the other hand, it is a fact she was 'never governed with less regard for the wishes and interests of the subject races' than at the present moment. Of course, India is better off now than she was during the rules of Lords Lansdowne and Elgin, and it is quite true that we have now a galaxy of rulers who are not only sympathetic and able, but are doing their utmost to help the country. But yet they are utterly powerless to stem the progress of the country towards ruin and disaster."

EAST,
28th Sept. 1901.

BEHAR HERALD,
28th Sept. 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th Sept. 1901.

It agrees about there being discontent, but "does not agree with him that it is only the hopelessness of resistance that prevents a formidable popular insurrection against the Government. It is not hopelessness that deters the discontented Indian from rising against Government, but he has no motive to do it. Why should he seek to destroy the British Government? Because of its unsympathetic attitude? But what is to follow British rule? Anarchy, is it not? The destruction of British rule would be followed by internal dissension between Hindus and Mussalmans. There was a time when British power was almost annihilated in Northern India, and the people felt that subjugation to British rule was better than independence with sepoy rule. The Indians have now nothing better to replace British rule,—that is the key to the situation."

INDIAN MIRROR,
1st Oct. 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,
3rd Oct. 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th Oct. 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,
5th Oct. 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th Oct. 1901.

2527. The *Indian Mirror* is glad to learn that Babu Rama Kanta Rai, a native of Sylhet, studying in Japan, has been appointed Engineer in a Japanese mine. This only emphasises the importance of sending young Indians to Japan for special education.

2528. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror* :—

"We lately made an appeal to Sir John Wood-Sale of cocaine and cigarettes. burn, imploring him to do something to stop the demoralization that is being wrought amongst our schoolboys by the combined blandishments of cocaine and cigarettes. Cannot a law be passed, making it penal for the vendors of cocaine and cigarettes to sell them to boys of a school-going age? They seem to be a pretty desperate lot, hardened sinners, who glory in corrupting the morals of our youth. A cocaine-seller, for instance, who was lately fined for selling the drug without a license, was heard to express in open Court his determination never to stop selling cocaine, no matter how often he might be fined. Such men should be awarded some more drastic punishment and sent to jail, or they will stick to their trade to the end."

2529. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, quoting the criticisms on Lord George Hamilton's Budget speech of *Reynolds' Newspaper*, the representative of the lower millions, remarks that "there is no doubt that the rule of India has vastly affected English character and modes of thought, and that the Empire is governed in the interests of the upper ten, at the cost of the less-favoured millions."

2530. On the 21st September last, the British Indian Association held its annual meeting which, to all appearance, passed off without a hitch, and the *Indian Mirror* then hoped that it would hear no more of any internal feuds among the members of the Association. It is therefore grieved to learn that another meeting has been called to consider the validity of the meeting of the 21st ultimo, as, according to certain rules of the Association, its annual meetings can only take place in the month of March, and, consequently, the proceedings of the September meeting are sought to be declared "irregular, illegal, and void." This plea is characterised as ridiculous, as for the last several years the annual meetings have been held in the month of September, whereby the British Indian Association of Calcutta for the last several years has not been a properly constituted body, and all that they have been doing must be regarded as illegal and void.

It is said that the object of the second meeting is really to upset the proceedings of the annual meeting of the 21st September, so that certain gentlemen, who were thrown out of office, might continue to hold them. Whatever reason has led to the calling of this meeting, the *Indian Mirror* hopes that it will be abandoned, and the Association will be spared a scandal.

2531. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* makes the following remarks in *Ibid.* connection with the same matter:—

"As a matter of fact, for nearly the last ten years, the annual meeting has not been held in April, and has generally been held in September and sometimes in November. It is very distressing that members of a public Association should so far forget themselves that they should seek to bring their body into disrepute simply for what they consider a personal slight. The British Indian Association—once the premier organisation of the country—has fallen upon evil times: it is badly officered and badly generalised, and it is rushing onward to destruction. Everybody in the country who remembers the

services which the Association has done in the past cannot but feel sorry for its present plight. It is the spectacle of Sampson in the bondage of Delila: of strength wasted and brought to naught by its own folly. We sincerely trust that the disaffected members will realize the absurdity of their present course, and forbear from committing a blunder which may destroy the Association altogether. We can but point out the danger: it is for the members to avert it."

2532. Had it not been for the services of an ally, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that Babu Surendranath Banerji would never have succeeded in winning over the leading Musalmans of Bankipore to the Congress.

The Muhammadans and the Congress. cause. That ally, it intimates, is Police rule, and the Musalmans of Bankipore have come to realise that the Congress with its Hindu preponderance is yet better than Police rule.

It then goes on to comment on the attitude of that community towards the Congress when the latter was started, and expresses the view that the Muhammadans of Patna should have joined the Congress long ago.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th Oct. 1901.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 12th October 1901.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Inspr.-General of Police, L. P.

